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soils and water-ways; its rapid development in population, industries, and communications; its cities and towns, education, finance and trade; and finally gives us a glimpse of its possible future as forecasted in its past and present.

Along its western border Alberta has the Rocky Mountains, but over 80 per cent. of its surface is undulating prairie and high plains. The plains, in a very youthful stage of dissection, are crossed from the mountains eastward by tributaries of the Peace, Athabasca and Saskatchewan rivers lying in deep valleys and uniting in these large rivers in mid-country. Between the valleys lie the plateau strips, usually with deep, rich, black soils superior to the black earth of Russia, and with a rather meager supply of water, though most of the precipitation occurs in the growing season. The stratigraphy with its coal, gas, oil, gypsum, salt and clays is much like that of the Dakotas. Irrigation is possible only near the mountains. Water-power is abundant down the valleys. Alberta is believed to have enormous horse-power. Lakes are numerous, and twenty-five are of large size. Fishing in both lakes and streams is excellent. One is surprised at the development already attained.

G. D. HUBBARD.

The Selkirk Mountains. A Guide for Mountain Pilgrims and Climbers. By A. O. Wheeler and Elizabeth Parker. x and 199 pp. Maps, ills., appendix, index. Stovel Co., Winnipeg, Canada, 1912. \$1.50. 5 x 7½.

This handy little volume presents in compact and readable form a large amount of information which the casual tourist as well as the more ambitious traveler will be glad to have. Opening with a sketch of the early exploration and mountaineering which are brought down to 1911 by an outline of subsequent work, the text next takes up various districts in detail and concludes with brief descriptions of the geology, flora and fauna and related matters. There are also sections on the Alpine Club of Canada and on rules, equipment, etc., for mountaineers.

The two principal chapters are devoted to the summit range contiguous to Glacier and to the Purcell Range and the country about the headwaters of the Columbia River. The latter, being new, is of especial value. In the former, the various orographical features are described alphabetically, full data as to times, distance, altitude, origin of name, location and routes of approach being set forth under each. Inasmuch as this section will be put into practical use by many of its readers, it is disappointing to discover a goodly number of minor slips and contradictions. Space forbids citation of these, but some of the more glaring errors of fact follow: Professor Parker did not climb Grand Mt. (p. 67); Purity Pass (p. 85) is not connected with Purity Glacier, nor is its altitude 9,200 feet, but 8,700 feet; Terminal Peak (p. 98) agrees in neither position nor altitude with the same as mapped; Mt. Sugarloaf cannot be climbed as described under Route 2 (p. 96); Mt. Sir Sandford was first attempted in 1907, not in 1908 (pp. 30 and 94) and not by the party mentioned; Ross Peak Station (p. 90) is too high by over 800 feet, and Beaver Creek Station (p. 49) does not exist.

Passing elsewhere, the following observations are suggested: The Columbia River flows northerly from Columbia Lake for about 175 miles, not 300 miles (p. 10). The author will find few supporters for the statement (p. 150) that heat and cold, contraction and expansion, cause large crevasses in glaciers. Porcupines, squirrels and eagles are common, pages 174 and 176 to the contrary notwithstanding.

Fifty-nine illustrations and six maps are presented. Of the former, Eagle Peak is mislabelled Mt. Avalanche (p. 34), and Mt. Purity is seen from the Bishop's Range (p. 84), not from Donkin Pass. The Cougar Brook view (p. 114) should be inverted.

H. PALMER.

South American Problems. By Robert E. Speer. xi and 270 pp. Map, ills., index. Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, New York, 1912. 7½ x 5.

A singularly sober and well-considered book. Mr. Speer keeps himself in the background, but he seems to have visited every country except perhaps Venezuela, Ecuador and Paraguay and his judgments carry evidence of con-

stant, careful examination of the facts. After quoting Barrett, for instance, for boom statistics of the magnificent areas of the Latin Republics, he adds (p. 35) "It is customary to speak with unlimited wonder of the wealth and resources of South America. It is not to be doubted that the continent has immense riches of agricultural product and mineral treasures waiting to be developed, but the general impression produced upon the observant visitor is disappointing. There are deserts more barren than the worst of ours. The tropical forests and vegetation are coarse and oppressive. The rain and warmth produce luxuriant growths, but tender things, green grass and little flowers die in the shadows or are scorched in the heat. The table land of the Andes above the timber line and with too high an altitude for corn and wheat, the rainless stretches of arid soil, the sandy wastes even in the tropics, the swamps and miasmatic forests, must all be measured when we talk of the agricultural possibilities of South America."

Mr. Speer perceives the vast wealth of the Argentine Republic. That country "is in a class by itself" (p. 36). He puts Brazil and Chile next in energy and progressiveness and places at the bottom "of the South American countries that we saw" Peru, Colombia and Bolivia (p. 55). The present writer does not know any brief sketch of the South Americans so sound and illuminating as this. It makes no pretence to be scientific geography. His object was to estimate the call that exists for Protestant Missions in these regions and his book must efface any doubt on the subject. His treatment of the Catholic church of the Latin continent is admirable for its reserve as well as its soundness. He quotes from Hale that in the southern continent "male chastity is unknown" and he might have added "Nor believed to exist anywhere." Immorality is a cancer on southern culture. It is a taint on their physical as well as their spiritual nature.

MARK JEFFERSON.

Chile. An Account of its Wealth and Progress. By Julio Perez Canto. Porter's Progress of Nations. 251 pp. Maps, index. George Routledge & Sons, Ltd., London, 1912. 1s. 8 x 5.

About one-third of the volume is given over to an introduction by Robert P. Porter, the object of which is to present a brief account of the early history of Chile leading up to the "modern industrial Chile to which Mr. Perez Canto has been obliged to devote most of his space." Because of the fact that the book is written to supply "immigrants and investors with trustworthy information," it seems that the introduction could have been omitted. The second part handles the necessary information admirably, leaving one with the impression that Chile is a land of golden opportunity. The arguments are not always fully consistent, as shown by the statement in Chapter 11 to the effect that the "backbone of the nation is the agriculturist" and by the climax statement in the closing chapter, "the future of Chile does not rest merely upon the material advantages . . . ; it is securely based upon the intense patriotism of the inhabitants."

The significance of the Panama Canal as a factor in the future of Chile is evidently left for Mr. Canto to emphasize. After stating how geographical location has handicapped large immigration from Europe especially, he says "the Transandine Railway to Buenos Aires has already commenced to exercise a favorable influence, while the Panama Canal will soon do the same on a vaster scale."

The reader is left with the impression that Chile lacks little in modernism; that its resources are still in large part undeveloped; that its products, both mineral and agricultural, occur in large variety, and that the possibilities of the area for the pursuit of manufacturing industries is fairly unlimited. Potential water power from the swift mountain streams, thick seams of coal deposits, and iron deposits which are "fabulous" promise a brilliant future.

The statistics which are well woven into the chapters on "Navigation," "Trade and Commerce" and "Mining and Metallurgy" are of considerable interest. Authorities, always desirable in connection with data, are not always cited.

A political map of Chile on a scale of approximately 145 miles to the inch folds into the book as an insert and upon the back cover appears a political map of South America on a scale of approximately 753 miles to the inch.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.